ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for defining configuration profiles for logical entities representing features of elements in a communications network is described. Network elements or features of network elements in a communications system are represented as logical

5   entities. Characteristics associated with the logical entities are defined. Each characteristic may have several possible values. One or more profiles are defined for each logical entity. Each profile specifies a particular value for each characteristic of the logical entity. All of the network elements can be assigned the same profile or different profiles. Two different instances of the same entity can be provisioned with two different

10   profiles. In one embodiment, profiles are defined for failure conditions that can cause the generation of alarm signals. A set of generic profiles that defines the manner in which failures are to be reported is assigned to each specified type of failure.